

Tagimaucia (*Medinilla waterhousei*)



The *Tagimaucia* is a liana (woody vine), that forms thickets high up in the canopy, much similar to the growth of the duva, *Derris trifoliata*. This beautiful endemic flowering vine has a limited distribution, restricted to the higher parts of Taveuni and Vanua Levu, particularly within the forests on the slopes leading up to Lake Tagimaucia and the upper slopes of Mt. Seatura, Bua. Its restricted range to the forests of Taveuni and Mt Seatura, Bua makes this plant vulnerable. This restricted range and therefore small populations mean that natural disasters and logging activities that destroy the forest and habitat, can affect the survival of the *Tagimaucia* by upsetting its phenology and regeneration. Frequent human visitations into the forest to pick the flowers are also a threat to the plant as they bring along with them seeds of invasive plants hitchhiking on their shoes and clothes. Invasive plants, especially creepers can compete with the *Tagimaucia* for space.

